

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /056 W
-----037562 220617Z /13
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FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1606
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2386

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PINS
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON INTERNAL SITUATION

1. ON JUNE 19 FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ ASSERTED THAT WHILE TRIBAL DISSIDENCE CONTINUES IN THE NORTH, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REMAINS IN A STRING POSITION BOTH POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY. IN THE FORMER REGARD AL-ASNAJ SAID THAT AL-HAMDI AND THE REGIME ARE ENJOYING WIDESPREAD POPULAR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND IT IS THIS SUPPORT WHICH HAS DEMONSTRATED TO SAHYKH AL-AHMAR AND HIS FREINDS THAT THEY HAVE NO REAL CHANCE OF COMING TO POWER IN YEMEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE, OR EVER. ON THE MILITARY SIDE AL-ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT SHAYKH SINAN ABU LUHUM IS NOW "SURROUNDED" BY YEMENI ARMY UNITS FROM THE WELL-TRAINED PARACHUTIST BRIGADE IN HIS HOME VILLAGE OF NIHM. THUS ABU LUHUM IS NOT ABLE TO LEAVE, WHICH EFFECTIVELY BLOCKS ANY OF HIS EFFORTS TO CAUSE TROUBLE IN THE NORTHERN REGIONS. MEANWHILE, SHAYKH AL-AHMAR IS ALSO "IN A BAD WAY" MILITARILY, ALTHOUGH THE YEMENI ARMY HAS NOT MADE ANY MOVES IN HIS DIRECTION. AL-ASNAJ NOTED GROMLY THAT IF AL-AHMAR MOVES, HOWEVER, HE WILL BE "HIT ON THE HEAD."

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2. AL-ASNAJ STATED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE STRONG POSITION OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AL-AHMAR AND HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, MAJAHID ABU SHUWARIB NOW APPEAR TO BE RESORTING TO TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE. THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, WAS RECENTLY ABLE TO BREAK UP A RING IN BOTH HODEIDAH AND SANA WHICH WAS WORKING DIRECTLY FOR ABY SHUWARIB WITH THE INTENTION OF BLOWING UP NOT ONLY

AIRPLANES AT HODEIDAH AIRPORT AND AUTOMOBILES OF OFFICIALS IN SANA BUT ALSO THE PRESIDENTIAL GUESTHOUSE IN HODEIDAH WHERE AL-HAMDI INTENDS TO STAY DURING THE UPCOMING POPULAR CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN A DEFINITE INCREASE IN SECURITY MEASURES IN SANA OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, DOUBTLESS IN RESPONSE TO THE SABOTAGE AND TERRORIST THREATS DESCRIBED BY AL-ASNAJ. EVERYTHING WE SEE, HOWEVER, HERE IN SANA AND IN OTHER SOUTHERN CITIES CONFIRMS WHAT AL-ASNAJ SAID ABOUT WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR AL-HAMDI. BARRING FURTHER SUCCESSFUL ASSASSINATIONS, WE DO NOT SEE ANY MAJOR THREAT TO THE REGIME OVER THE MONTHS AHEAD.
SCOTES

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